

HOUSTON WOULD AND PROFITTEERS, CHARGES KITCHIN

Says Secretary Would Swell
50 Billion Already Stolen
From People.

CALLS TAXES UNJUST

Treasury Head, North Caro-
linian Hints, Disregards
the Masses.

DICTIONARY IS INTIMATED

Official Has No Right to Tell
Congress What to Tax,
Is Contention.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.

The recommendations for increased taxes made by Secretary of the Treasury Houston in his annual report to-day drew a fire of caustic criticism from Representative Claude Kitchin (N. C.), ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee and tramer of the present revenue act.

Mr. Kitchin in a statement which marked his first real Congress activity since his illness, which began last April, asserted the recommendations of the Secretary were "the most unjust, undemocratic and pro-profitteers that ever emanated from a Government department." Mr. Houston, he said, would shift the burden of taxation from the corporate interests to the poorer class of people.

Mr. Kitchin did not believe it would be a wise political move for Mr. Houston to make any detailed recommendations for tax increases. Mr. Kitchin's statement follows:

Statement by Kitchin.

"I think it is the most unjust, undemocratic and pro-profitteers programme that ever emanated from any department of the Government since its beginning. If the Democrats had control of the House I am sure the Ways and Means Committee and the House itself would unanimously reject them. The whole intent and policy of his recommendations are to relieve the corporate interests and millionaires, who for the last four years have plundered and profited upon the people to the extent of \$50,000,000,000, of a billion and a half or two billion of taxes annually and place that amount on the backs of the people, that is, the victims of such plunderers and profiteers.

"I cannot understand how any man who claims to have a single impulse for the masses or who claims to be a Democrat could make such recommendations, but I understand that neither Mr. Houston nor any of his friends make such claims for him. If a Republican Administration were to make such recommendations the Democrats in the House would not want a better issue.

"I have not time now to discuss in detail his recommendations or report. Perhaps I will have opportunity to do this in the next Congress, when the Republican Administration recommends the same policy.

"Have you ever thought about it? The secretaries of the Treasury under Mr. Wilson were the first to ever assume the authority to tell Congress what it ought to tax or ought not to tax, and the rate of taxation; whether tariff or domestic taxation. All other Secretaries of the Treasury for the last seventy-five years were content to leave the question of what ought or ought not to be taxed and the rate to the judgment of Congress, as the Constitution leaves it.

Deplores Houston's Course.

"I trust the Republican Secretary of the Treasury under the next Administration will have more confidence in the Republican Congress than our Democratic secretaries under Wilson's Administration have shown in Democratic Congresses and will not assume to tell Congress what it shall tax or shall not tax and the rate of taxation, but will be willing to leave it where all other secretaries of the Treasury, before the advent of the Wilson Administration, have left it—to the judgment of Congress as the Constitution does. They performed their duties by informing Congress the condition of the finances of the Government and the amount of money required to meet Government expenses."

HARDING DECIDES TO RESIGN FROM SENATE JANUARY 10

Mass of Letters and Telegrams Keep President-Elect
Busy on Return to Marion—Thanks Gov. Cox
for His Offer to Appoint Willis.

Marion, Ohio, Dec. 9.—Unanswered letters and telegrams that had piled up during his month away from Marion occupied President-elect Harding's undivided attention to-day, and he put in several hours of overtime in the hope of catching up with his office routine before the beginning of his League of Nations conference.

Bright, clear weather presented his best opportunity in weeks for a game of golf, and after lunch he wandered for a while under the temptation, but finally put it aside and stayed on the job.

It was pointed out to-day that his resignation from the Senate now really would make very little difference in Mr. Harding's responsibilities, since he expected to leave in any case early in January, and much of the intervening

time probably will be taken up by a holiday recess of the Senate.

Still reserving his decision because of the illness of Mr. Willis's father, Senator Harding to-day sent the following telegram of thanks to Gov. Cox:

"I beg to acknowledge your telegram with reference to appointing Senator-elect Willis to the vacancy which my resignation will create. I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of helpfulness which your telegram conveys."

The President-elect's plans have provided that he leave his Senatorial office about January 10, when the new Governor-elect is expected to name Senator-elect Willis to the vacancy. No decision will be made as to an earlier resignation until Mr. Harding has consulted the wishes of the Senator-elect.

WILL ASK CABINET PLACE FOR SOUTH

Many of Dixie's Leaders Want
Marion Butler to Have
Agriculture Post.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.

President-elect Harding will be urged by prominent Republicans and many Democrats throughout the South to recognize that section of the country in his Cabinet appointments. The movement is rapidly growing.

It is understood here that several prominent Republican leaders of North Carolina are ready to join in the recommendation as a matter of party policy, with the hope that the remarkable gain of Republican votes in the South in the recent election may be not only held in future but increased by carrying North Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana to add to Tennessee and Oklahoma, which went Republican this year.

The Cabinet post which Southern leaders have unanimously agreed to ask of President-elect Harding is Secretary of Agriculture. They declare that because the South is the greatest agricultural section of the country and almost wholly devoted to that pursuit, no other Cabinet position would mean so much to the Southern people. Former Senator Marion Butler (N. C.) is most prominently mentioned in the letters and telegrams that have been sent to Senator Harding on the subject.

Col. I. M. Meekins of North Carolina, who has been a delegate to several Republican national conventions and who was a member of the committee which notified Senator Harding of his election, was in Washington to-day en route to New York. He is one of the strongest advocates of Southern representation in the Harding Cabinet.

"The great agricultural South wants to be recognized in President Harding's Cabinet," said Col. Meekins. "Every agricultural organization in my State and throughout the South, as far as I know, has joined in asking for the Secretary of Agriculture. Business men and professional men are also joining in the request for this recognition. Many Democrats are linked with Republicans in this request. It means that the economic and industrial interests of our people are appealing to more than partisan considerations."

"Annually most significant thing in the unanimity with which all these elements, regardless of party, have joined in presenting one name, and one only—Marion Butler. It is because they recognize in him one of the strongest men in the South who has in a marked degree every qualification for that most important Cabinet position. He is one of our largest and most successful farmers; he has all his life been identified with every movement for the advancement of agriculture and has the highest order of administrative ability."

"The placing of former Senator Butler in that position will mean that President Harding will have the greatest Secretary of Agriculture who has ever filled that position, and at the same time will mean more for the success of the Republican party in our State and the whole South than anything else which can be done during his administration."

SEES LOSS TO U. S. IN THEATRE TAX BOOST

Sam Harris Says Attendance
Would Decrease.

That Secretary Houston's recommendation to Congress for an increase of 10 per cent. on theatre admissions would decrease rather than augment the Government's revenue from this source, is the claim of Sam H. Harris, president of the Producing Managers Association.

Mr. Harris believes a double tax, as proposed, would prove to be more of

NAVY HAMPERED BY OFFICER SHORTAGE

Rear Admiral Washington As-
serts It Is the Most Serious
Problem in Service.

LOWER GRADES SUFFER

Bureau of Navigation's Chief
Says Enlisted Force Is
Almost Adequate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Declaring that the officer personnel of the navy should be augmented to full strength and placed on a permanent basis, "with the least possible delay," Rear Admiral Thomas Washington, chief of the bureau of navigation, in his annual report to Secretary Daniels to-day describes the personnel situation as the most serious problem before the navy. Even though 1,200 reserve and temporary officers are taken into the regular establishment, as permitted by law, during the coming year, the shortage of officers May 1, 1921, will be equal to seven years' output of the Naval Academy.

From present indications, and unless remedial legislation is obtained, the report declares that the temporary appointments of 7 rear admirals, 67 captains, 154 commanders and 380 lieutenant commanders will have to be revoked July 1, 1921, due to shortage of officers in the lower grades.

More attention must be paid to the personnel side of the conduct of the navy, Admiral Washington says, asserting that "this point of view does not now prevail."

"The attention of the navy and of all those who in any way enter into the activities of the navy must be concentrated equally on the ships and the men who man them," the report says. "The long period of material reconstruction covering new building programmes has diverted too large a share of service attention from questions of personnel."

Commenting on the enlisted man situation, Admiral Washington states that the navy has very largely recovered

from the post-war reaction that virtually stopped recruiting. At the rate now men are now entering the service the authorized strength will be reached by July 1 next, his report predicts. Due to the loss of a large percentage of the navy's enlisted men, however, the report says that the enlisted force has not yet gained normal efficiency.

Resignations during the fiscal year from the officer force have been serious. Admiral Washington says, the line being particularly hard hit. At the end of the year there were more than 450 fewer line officers in the service than on November 1, despite the fact that a class had graduated from the Naval Academy in the meantime. A total of 606 officers resigned from the regular navy during the year, of which 54 were line officers, leaving a shortage of about 2,400 officers in the permanent establishment.

A considerable portion of the report was devoted to the naval reserve force, an annual appropriation of at least \$500,000 for the administration of this service being recommended.

"The expenditure of money for this purpose from year to year will at first appear perhaps large," says the Admiral, "but when it is considered that the maintenance of this force in an efficient state will not only save the Government a large share of the amount that would be expended for the purpose if war should again find us unprepared, but will practically insure victory on the sea following a declaration of war, an insurance is gained at comparatively small cost and as such is a measure of economy."

The world war demonstrated that the navy could not rely on the merchant service for officers and men in time of war, Admiral Washington states, in urging that the members of the merchant marine get at least the fundamentals of naval training for use in time of emergency.

The naval reserve force now consists of 28,000 officers and 235,000 enlisted men, the report says, the majority of whom are interested in the work and will probably remain in the service. More than 8,000 of the officers and fully 100,000 of the men are qualified for the duties of their rank on combatant ships of the navy in time of war, Admiral Washington adds.

F. D. ROOSEVELT MEETS COX.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 9.—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democratic nominee for Vice-President at the recent election, conferred with Gov. James M. Cox at the executive office for several hours late to-day. It was his first meeting since the election.

Mr. Roosevelt stated that his call on the Governor was without significance. He left for Washington to-night.

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